Applicants: Robert H. DeBellis et al.

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In the claims:

Please replace the claims with the listing of claims below.

1. (currently amended) A method of treating siekle cell disease in a subject afflicted with sickle cell disease which comprises administering to the subject an amount of an antiviral agent, other than hydroxyurea wherein the antiviral agent is a purine analog, pencyclovir, famcyclovir, ribavirin, lamivudine, amantadine, or rimantadine, effective to inhibit sickling of a cell in the subject, so as to thereby treat sickle cell disease in the subject.

2. - 9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is an erythrocyte cell.

11. - 13. (cancelled)

- 14. (currently amended) The purine analog method of claim 13 1, wherein the purine analog is a guanosine analog.
- 15. (original) The guanosine analog of claim 14, wherein the guanosine analog is acyclovir.
- 16. (original) The guanosine analog of claim 14, wherein the guanosine analog is valacyclovir.
- 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein

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the sickle cell disease is selected from the group consisting of sickle cell anemia, sickle β -thalassemia, sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease and any other sickle hemoglobinopathy in which hemoglobin S interacts with a hemoglobin other than hemoglobin S.

- 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a mouse, rat, dog, guinea pig, ferret, rabbit, primate, or human being.
- 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the antiviral agent is administered to a subject via intralesional, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal, liposome mediated, transmucosal, intestinal, topical, nasal, oral, anal, ocular or otic delivery.